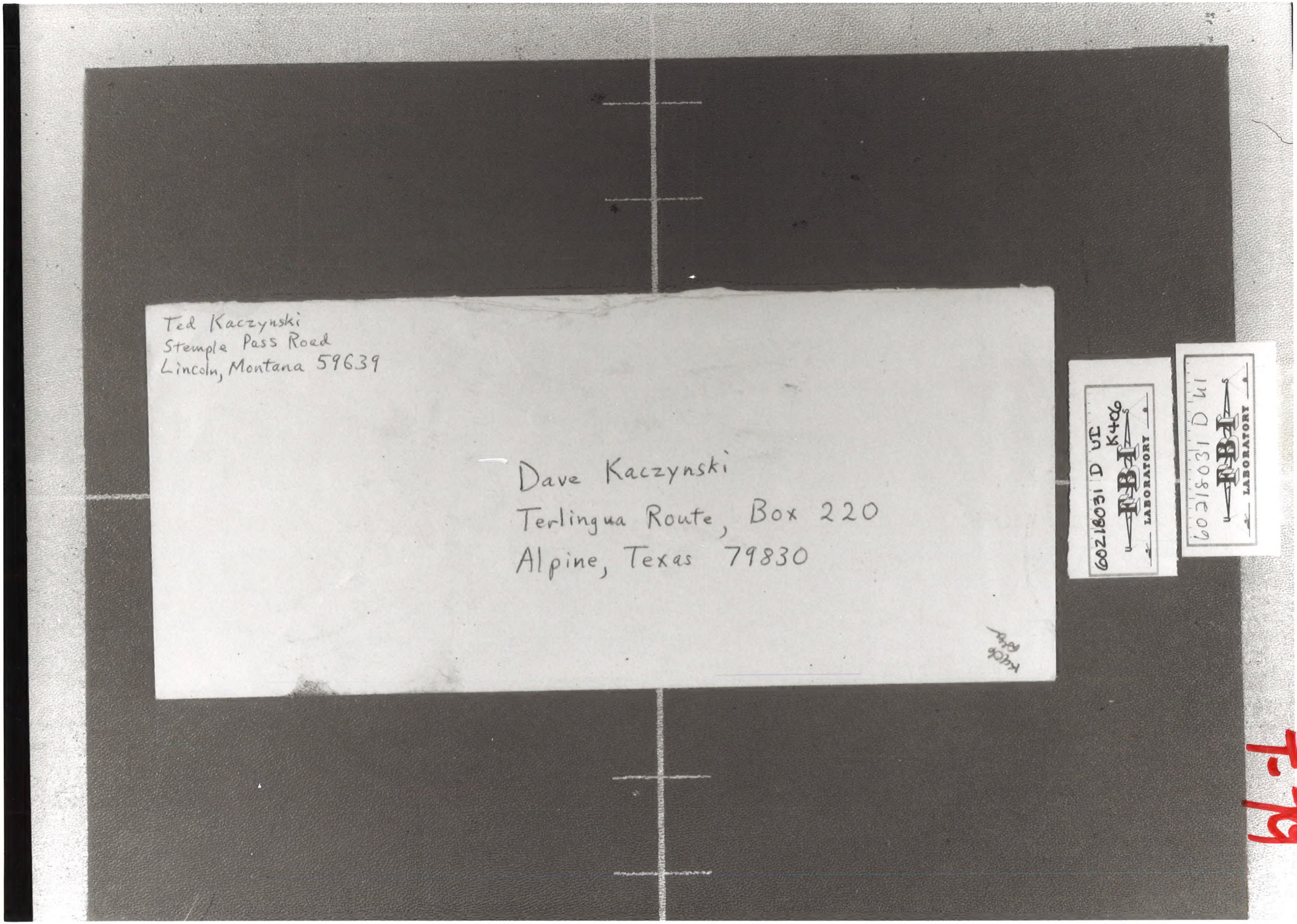
Ted Kaczynski
Stemple Pass Road
Lincoln, Montana 59639
Dave Kaczynski
Terlingua Route, Box 220
Alpine, Texas 79830
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Dear Dave: I have a problem that you may (1)
be able to help me with if you are willing
to participate in something slightly shady. I want
to build a root cellar, and I want to use logs to
hold up the sides and roof. I have picked
out a stand of dead but sound standing lodgepole
pines. Since they are dead, the forest service says I
can have them for nothing. The only trouble is...
how to haul them to my place. As for that guy I
sold my pickup to... I asked him, and it turns out
the pickup is no longer in proper running
condition. I also tried to make a deal with Irene,
but she says there is something broken in the steering
mechanism of her pickup and it is only wired together,
so she wouldn't want to have logs hauled with it.
I don't know any other likely parties to ask, so I
guess I will have to try a regular rental outfit.

Now, the trouble is, I believe most or all
car or truck rental outfits require a reference from
your employer, and you have to have been
employed in the same place for at least a year.

Now, I could try this: I could use my
Illinois driver's licence for identification, claiming
I am on vacation, and give them the name of
an imaginary employer, with our home phone
number. I take it you are still home, usually, between
9 AM and 3 PM, so you could answer the phone
and say "yes, this is so-and-so company", etc. I
would call you immediately before I go to the
rental place, so that you would be prepared.

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If you don't want to do this, it's OK, since I suppose conceivably one could get into trouble for it, but I don't suppose it would be very serious trouble, since I'm not trying to pass myself off with a false name or any such thing, I'm only trying to give the impression that I'm employed when I am not.

Here is the fake data we could use:

Horvath Sausage Company 718 National Ave. Lombard, Illinois 60148 629-7235	You are: Harold Buldinski, Plant supervisor.

I work on the loading dock, loading and unloading trucks. I have been working there about 3½ years.

Please let me know what you think about this scheme, and also let me know of any modifications, or alternative ways of getting a truck, that you may think of.

One alternative plan would be for Dad to send me a signed, notarized statement to the effect that he takes responsibility for rental of the truck. He is a sufficiently solid-citizen type for that. The only trouble with this plan is the following: An owner, or a manager with plenty of authority, would probably accept some such arrangement; but I may not be able to see owner or manager. I will probably be talking to some clerk who will say — "Sorry but I don't have the authority to do this, I'm only supposed to rent to people who... etc. etc."

A variation on this plan might be to have Dad rent the truck by long-distance phone, arranging

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(3)

Dave — → See other letter enclosed where it's explained that I'm not coming to visit you.

By the way, I remember a few years ago you spoke to me about some woman psychologist whom you saw on television who claimed to have impressive evidence in favor of re-incarnation. You said she cited all kinds of impressive-sounding (alleged) facts. Well, a few years ago when I was back in Lombard there I found a book called The Geller Papers edited by some guy named Panati or something like that. It was difficult not to take the book seriously because the papers (those I read, anyway) were by people in the "hard" sciences who claimed to have done experiments under ~~conda~~ controlled conditions with this guy Uri Geller, and they found he exhibited powers not explainable on the basis of known scientific principles. What was impressive was the fact that there was nothing sensationalistic about the papers and the authors seemed to take a very conservative attitude and made no flat assertions that Geller had any supernormal powers. So I was forced to take the book K406 pg.

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seriously, though I didn't like to do so. (4)
On the other hand the thing just didn't seem right to me — it all just didn't seem to fit with things that are definitely known, and moreover they seemed to have omitted some obvious and simple experiments that I thought ought to have been done. So I always meant to try to do some checking up to see if the book was on the level. But I didn't get around to it.

However, a few months ago I learned of an organization that goes by the initials CSICOP and publishes a periodical called "the Skeptical Inquirer" (formerly The Zetetic) devoted to exposing fraudulent occult and psychic-type stuff. So I wrote to them asking about this Geller book. They wrote back referring me to some articles in back issues of their journal. So I ordered the 3 back issues in question ($20.00 altogether, ugh!) It seems that, investigated carefully, these Geller claims look much less impressive. In fact, at one point it was flatly asserted that Geller was a fraud. A very clever trickster. Their investigations of Geller and

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other psychic-type stuff generally (5)
seemed to be very careful and reasonable. On the other hand that pro-Geller book (so far as I read it) had also seemed reasonable, and moreover I have learned that people sometimes publish gross distortions if not outright lies, or else write irresponsibly, and nevertheless sound quite reasonable while doing it. Furthermore, some (not all) of the Skeptical Inquirer writers seemed to have an emotional bias against this psychic stuff just as strong as the emotional bias that some people have for it. Of course, in a case like this where it is impractical to do one's own investigating, so that one has to take the word of one side or another as to the facts on which to base a judgement — how can one be sure who is distorting things and who is not? However, I opine that the antipsychic school is right. Naturally, my preferences may be influencing me here, but it does seem to me that

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all this psychic and occult stuff just ⑥
doesn't fit in with the general pattern of definitely established facts, so that, in the absence of very solid evidence for psychic phenomena one would have to reject them. And since the evidence produced by the antis is at any rate sufficient to deprive the evidence of the pros of a solidly convincing character, one would have to conclude that the antis are most likely right. Also, some of the statements about Geller, notably the statement that he has been "exposed as a fraud," would lay the writers open to a libel suit if Geller were on the level.

If you find all this occult bullshit disturbing and would like to read those 3 issues of the Skeptical Inquirer that I have, let me know and I will send them to you. In that case you are welcome to keep them if you like, but if you decide you don't want to keep them, then please send them back to me rather than throwing them out.

— Ted

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